

Dear Appropriations Committee Legislators,

In concern for the citizens of CT, we are in great need for a great education system which is providing proper funding for the education of our students.

The Smarter Balanced Assessments gave me concern enough to not have my children participate in the assessments since I did not feel enough information was being provided to the public. Last year I submitted a FOI to the State Department of Education on the validity of the Smarter Balanced Assessments. The fact is that they lack psychometric testing – validation to provide they are testing what they purport to test. This is one the points in my article in the CTMirror. <http://ctviewpoints.org/2017/01/10/two-critical-education-issues-for-the-connecticut-legislature/>

I send you this testimony in concern that the costs of these tests to the citizens of CT are over *21 million dollars for a three year period*. The MOU for the SBAC is up for renewal and Commissioner Wentzel will be making this decision for the state once again -- this needs to stop.

Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium has never gone before Congress to be approved as an interstate compact, so therefore appears to be Unconstitutional. *Saurer v. Nixon*. <http://caselaw.findlaw.com/mo-court-of-appeals/1718493.html>.

Legislators, please see that no MOU is signed without going through Appropriations, and if the SBAC MOU has been signed, there is a window (30 or 60 days) to cancel the membership to Smarter Balanced, as well as determine further actions to the CT State Board of Education and State Department of Education to provide valid and fiscally wise assessments of our public school students. Stop funding the Smarter Balanced Assessments until the State Board of Education and State Department of Education can provide validation of the test.

Sincerely,

Anne Manusky
Easton, CT

